ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

LOWNDESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH, LOWNDESBORO, ALA.,

AUGUST 3-5, 1898.

OFFICERS.

G. G. MILES, MODERATOR.....MONTGOMERY, ALA.
J. C. POPE, CLERK & TREASURER.....MONTGOMERY, ALA.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

GEO. W. ELLIS, Chairman, Montgomery, Ala.
R. H. HUDSON, Millbrook, J. C. POPE, Montgomery,
C. C. EDWARDS, Wetumpka, J. B. COLLIER, Montgomery,
W. B. DAVIDSON, Montgomery.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

ON STATE MISSIONS—W. J. Elliott, Chairman, R H. Hudson, R. L. Dillard.
HOME MISSIONS—W. Y. Quisenberry, Ch'man, L. S. Jones, H. C. Burdeshaw.
FOREIGN MISSIONS—H. W. Provence, Ch'man, Frank Gordon, T. P. Connell.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Frank Allen, Chairman, C. C. Edwards, Geo. Mahler.
TEMPERANCE—J. I. Lamar, Chairman, G. W. McRea, E. W. Robinson.
DENOMINATIONAL EDUCAT'N—Geo. B. Eager, Ch'man, J. M. Black, J. G. Mills.
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—A. F. Dix, Chairman, J. B. Collier, J. E. Bishop.
ORPHANS' HOME—W. R. Meadows, Ch'man, E. L. Davant, Frank Hattemer.
WOMAN'S WORK—P. N. Cilley, Chairman, J. B. Bell, C. A. Gunn.
INDIGENT MINISTERS—J. G. Harris, Ch'man, A. H. Eubanks, T. J. Hairston.
BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION—J. L. Thompson, Chairman, W. E. Lacy, W. P. Dawson.
NEW AND WEAK CHURCHES—C. W. Buck, Ch'man, F. V. Battle, B. A. Blakey.

The next session will be held with Mt. Hebron church, near Elmore Station, on L. & N. R. R. Time to be fixed by the Executive Committee (so as not to conflict with other meetings of the denomination).

Also minutes of the Montgomery Baptist Sunday School Convention held at Ft. Deposit and Prattville.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

Geo. B. Eager	Montgomery, Ala.
W. Y. Quisenberry	" "
W. J. Elliott	" "
H. W. Provence	" "
J. L. Thompson	" "
G. W. Townsend	" "
C. Johnson	" "
E. F. Baber	" "
W. N. Gunter	" "
A. F. Dix	" "
C. W. Buck	" "
A. F. Goldsmith	Wetumpka, "
B. A. Jackson	Ramer, "
J. R. Caldwell	Deatsville, "
W. G. Sullivant	Raif Branch, "

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Fix time of meeting and adjourning.
4. Introductory sermon.
5. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
6. Receive correspondents and visitors.
7. Receive petitions from Churches desiring membership.
8. Appoint committees to report during session—
   - On Religious Exercises.
   - On Finance and Auditing.
   - On Nominations.
   - On Apportionment.
9. Read rules of order.
10. Hear reports from Committees and Treasurer.
11. Return correspondence.
12. Appoint committees to report at next session—
    - On Home Missions.
    - On Foreign Missions.
    - On Sunday Schools.
    - On Temperance.
    - On Denominational Education.
    - On State Board of Missions.
    - On Ministerial Education.
    - On Indigent Ministers.
    - On Woman's Work.
    - On Orphans' Home.
    - On Baptist Young People's Union.
    - On New and Weak Churches.
13. Hear miscellaneous business.
14. Call roll and erase absentees.
15. Arrange for printing minutes.
16. Correct minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1898.

MORNING SESSION.

The Montgomery Baptist Association assembled in its Seventeenth Annual Session with the Lowndesboro Baptist church, Lowndesboro, Ala., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 3-5, 1898.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. A. J. Dickinson, of Selma, who made some remarks on the 13th and 14th verses of the 14th chapter of John. Prayer by Rev. H. W. Provence. Sang hymn 387, in Baptist Hymnal.

The Clerk stated that the former Moderator, Bro. T. L. Jones, would not be with us at this session, and it was therefore necessary to elect a temporary presiding officer.

On motion of Rev. J. L. Thompson, Bro. G. G. Miles was elected temporary Moderator.

The Moderator appointed the following

Committee on Credentials—Geo. W. Ellis, C. C. Edwards, W. J. Elliott.

The programme as printed by the executive committee was adopted.

In the absence of Rev. C. Johnson, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. H. W. Provence, who read the 25th chapter of Matthew. Text, Matt. 25:14.

The Moderator appointed the following

Committee on Finance—W. E. Lacy, Frank Allen, W. R. Meadows.

Sang hymn 435.

On motion, Dr. Urquhart, Presiding Elder of this district of the M. E. church, was invited to a seat with us.

Bro. Meadows, of the Committee on Hospitality, made announcement assigning homes to delegates and visitors.

Adjourned till 3 p. m. with benediction by Rev. A. J. Dickinson.

AFTERNOON.

The Association assembled at 3 o'clock.

Bro. C. W. Hare, of Tuskegee, conducted the devotional exercises. Sang "Come thou Fount of every blessing."

Bro. Geo. W. Ellis, Chairman, made the following report for the Committee on Credentials, which, on motion, was adopted:

Report of Committee on Credentials.

Your committee report the following persons entitled to seats in this Association:

Adams Street—Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry, Geo. W. Thomas, J. C. Pope, J. N. Macon. Visitors: Mrs. W. Y. Quisenberry, Miss Emmie Stough.

Bethany—Not represented (but since reported).

Bethel—J. E. Bishop, J. M. Black.

Bethesda—Letter; no delegate.

Clayton Street—Rev. J. L. Thompson, R. L. Dillard, Frank Allen, L. S. Jones, G. W. McRea, Geo. W. Ellis. Visitors: Miss Lucile Allen, Miss Maud Merritt, Miss Minnie Stewart.

Coosada—Rev. W. J. Elliott, R. H. Hudson.

Deatsville—Dr. J. I. Lamar.

First Montgomery—Rev. Geo. B. Eager, Rev. A. F. Dix. Rev. C. W. Buck, J. G. Harris, G. G. Miles, E. L. Davant. Visitor: Miss Vivian Due.

Friendship—Not represented.

Hayneville—H. C. Burdeshaw.

Letohatchie—J. W. Dickson. Visitor: Mrs. J. W. Dickson.

Lowndesboro—Frank Gordon, E. W. Robinson, W. R. Meadows, Dr. P. N. Cilley.

Mt. Hebron—T. P. Connell.

Mt. Lebanon—Not represented.

Mt. Zion—J. G. Mills.

Pine Level—Letter; no delegate.

Prattville—Letter; no delegate.

Ramer—Letter; no delegate.

South Montgomery—Rev. H. W. Provence, J. B. Collier, Geo. Mahler. Visitor: Mrs. J. B. Collier.

Wetumpka—C. C. Edwards, W. E. Lacy. Visitors: Miss Lucy Bradford, Miss Lucy Lull.

Respectfully submitted,

Geo. W. Ellis,
W. J. Elliott,
C. C. Edwards,
Committee.

On motion, the Clerk cast the vote of the Association for Bro. G. G. Miles for Moderator.

On motion, Rev. J. L. Thompson cast the vote of the Association for Bro. J. C. Pope for Clerk and Treasurer.

On motion, Rev. M. H. Holt, pastor of the M. E. Church, Lowndesboro, was invited to a seat with us.

Rev. J. L. Thompson and Bro. C. W. Hare were appointed by the Moderator to read the letters from the churches. Letters were read.

Received visitors as follows:

Tuskegee Association—W. D. Fonville, C. W. Hare.
Selma Association and Judson Institute—Rev. A. J. Dickinson.
Alabama Baptist—J. G. Harris, C. W. Hare.
Conecuh Association—Rev. W. M. Murray.
State Board of Missions—Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.

The Moderator appointed the following committees on—

Religious Exercises—Rev. W. J. Elliott, J. G. Harris, P. N. Cilley.
Nominations—J. B. Collier, R. H. Hudson, J. E. Bishop.
Apportionment—J. I. Lamar, J. M. Black, L. S. Jones.

On invitation of Association, Dr. Urquhart made some remarks.

Dr. Dickinson spoke in behalf of the Judson Female Institute.

Sang "How firm a foundation."

Adjourned till 8 p. m. with benediction by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.

EVENING.

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. W. M. Murray, who read the 1st chapter of Romans. Prayer by Rev. A. J. Dickinson.

The report on State Missions was read by Bro. J. B. Collier, Chairman, and spoken to by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.

On motion, Dr. Bledsoe was given permission to add amendment to the report before it is printed in the minutes.

The report was further discussed by Revs. A. J. Dickinson and W. Y. Quisenberry, and adopted, as follows:

Report on State Missions.

Your committee to whom has been referred this very important subject, begs to make the following report:

The position of the State Board of Missions in our system of mission work is by few of the Baptists of Alabama correctly estimated. The object of this Report will be to place before this body a plain statement of the objects for which this Board was created and to strive thereby to awaken a deeper interest in its work.

1. To the State Board is committed all the interests of missions in Alabama, including the interests of the Home Mission Board, at Atlanta, and the Foreign Mission Board, at Richmond. The employees of the State Board are careful to look after these several phases of missions, realizing that distinctions between them are only in name, each having in view the same grand purpose, viz: the extension of Master's kingdom among men in obedience to His command. Your committee deem it important that the fact that the State Board has in hand all these interests of missions, be clearly set forth, for a contribution to the support of the State Board is indirectly a contribution to the Home and Foreign Boards, Attention is called to the evident fact that the prosperity of every phase of the mission work depends upon the prosperity of the State Board. If its policies are vigorously sustained, good results will be seen in every department of our work. Each consecrated man put on the field in Alabama, whether as evangelist, missionary pastor or colporter, adds one to the number who have at heart every interest of the Master's kingdom.

2. The State Board is engaged in the following special lines of work:—

First—Evangelical. This means the employment of consecrated men to travel and preach among the churches striving to awaken a deeper interest in the cause of missions at home and abroad, as well as visiting destitute regions and preaching to the lost the peerless Gospel of the blessed God. Of these men there are at present under

the employment of the Board Brethren A. J. Preston, South-east Alabama, W. A. Parker, Sr. in the South-west, J. W. Sandlin, in the North-east, and Jos. Shackelford, in the Northern part of the state. The importance of this work can be better appreciated when we remember that out of the 120 thousand white Baptists in the state not more than twelve thousand are making contributions to missions. To add to the number of regular contributors to the cause is greatly to be desired and must be done if we hope to enlarge the work and to do anything like what ought to be done in Alabama for the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

Second—Missionary Pastoral Work. This work consists in helping to support pastors at important points that give promise of soon growing into self-sustaining churches. Beyond question the brightest page in the history of the State Board is that page that gives record of the work that has been done in this department of labor. There are more than a score of churches that are now strong and self supporting that in their early history were sustained by the State Board—indeed, many of them were planted by the Board. But while it is true that a grand work has been done, "there remaineth yet much land to be possessed." Many destitute fields are sounding the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," but lack of means prevents the Board from responding favorably.

It is proper to say in this connection that the Secretary of the Board gives much of his time to missionary and evangelistic work.

From these very brief statements we can gather some conception of the important work that is being done by our State Board of Missions. That this work commends itself to our hearty sympathy and support is a most evident proposition. Just at this time your committee is in position to know that the Board is sadly in need of funds. The Secretary is struggling to pay the indebtedness of the Board to its employees. Some of these have not been paid in the last year. Your committee speaks with authority when it assures this Association that the State Board of Missions was never in so pressing need of help as now; and we would urge the churches that in the very near future they make a special contribution to this work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. COLLIER,
Chairman.

AMENDMENT (by Dr. Bledsoe).

SUMMARY OF WORK FOR LAST CONVENTIONAL YEAR.

Number of men employed	17
Days of service	3,536
Miles traveled	23,747
Sermons delivered	1,831
Addresses delivered	533
Churches constituted	5
Persons baptized	335
Sunday Schools organized	8
Ladies' Missionary Societies organized	4
Prayer meetings held	246
Number of churches visited	683
Subscriptions to denominational papers	322
Page of tracts distributed	40,000
Money collected for all missions by missionaries	$4,449.17
Money collected for Orphanage	228.81
Bibles given away	150

Further remarks on the Judson Female Institute by Dr. Dickinson.

On motion of Prof. Geo. W. Thomas, the Association adjourned till 9:30 a. m. to-morrow.

THURSDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Devotional exercises conducted at 9:30 by Prof. W. D. Fonville, of Tuskegee.

Association resumed business at 10 o'clock.

Minutes of yesterday's session read and approved.

Letter from Bethel (Ft. Deposit) church received and read by the Clerk.

Letter from the Letohatchie Baptist church was read, and, on motion of Dr. P. N. Cilley, the church was received into the fellowship of the Association.

The report on Home Missions was read by Prof. Geo. W. Thomas, Chairman. Discussed by brethren Thomas, W. M. Murray and C. W. Hare and adopted:

Report on Home Missions.

"The work of Home Missions demands and should receive, for its own sake, the support of every lover of his country and his Lord."

This short sentence from an admirable address of Dr. A. J. Rowland strikes your committee as the key truth to the report that they make to-day. As we look at the field, embracing all the Southern States, Oklahoma, and the island of Cuba, with a population of more than twenty-five millions, we get a faint conception of the magnitude of the work.

In some of the older states the Baptists, through their local and State Boards, are doing good missionary work, but in other states, where our denomination is weak in numbers and financial strength, notably Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas, help must come from beyond their borders, or the work will never be done.

Florida, with a half million population, has less than 5,000 white Baptists; Arkansas, with one and a half million, has about 72,000 white Baptists, and from a statement of Dr. Tichenor, our Secretary of the Home Mission Board, we find that there are probably not a dozen churches in the state that have worship every Sunday.

Louisiana, with a population equal to that of Arkansas, has but 32,000 white Baptists. New Orleans, with a population of nearly 300,000, has but three white Baptist churches, and only one of these is able to support a pastor.

Going west from New Orleans on the Southern Pacific Railroad, we find no white Baptist church till we have travelled one hundred and sixty-six miles, though we have passed through several large towns, each numbering several thousand inhabitants, and it is one of the richest agricultural sections of the state.

These are not exceptional cases, but we cannot go more into detail, as this report would be too long.

The mountain region of several of the Southern States needs the

fostering care of the Home Mission Board, and scores of missionaries could find ample fields for their labors if our churches would furnish the means.

Increased contributions should be made for the work in some of the larger cities, Baltimore, Washington, St. Louis and others. The first named receives more immigrants annually than any other city on the American continent except New York. How important that we should give them the gospel as soon as they reach our shores; and to do this, consecrated missionaries must meet them at their coming.

The colored people, found everywhere in our borders, deserve our sympathy in their efforts to improve the spiritual condition of their race, and we should not pass them by in our work for the good of all.

Let us give the gospel to the Indian, a race rapidly disappearing from our country, and whatever we do for them must be done quickly.

The war in Cuba has driven out our devoted missionaries, but we believe the bright day is near at hand when Cuba will be politically and religiously free, and then what a glorious work lies before us in that beautiful island! It may be, even now, that this great government of the United States has spoken the word that gives freedom, civil and religious, to every one of those suffering Cubans. Then let us at once give the pure gospel of Jesus Christ to this long oppressed people.

The report of our beloved Secretary, Dr. Tichenor, to the Convention at Norfolk in May last was in every respect an encouraging one. It was a remarkable showing in these times of financial depression, that the Board had done so great a work, and yet closed the conventional year free from debt. We give a brief summary of that report: Number missionaries 467, baptisms 4,739, received by letter 4,770, churches constituted 103, houses of worship built 45, houses of worship improved 68, amount expended on houses of worship $59,629, Sunday schools organized 297, teachers and pupils 7,710.

The contributions to Home Missions from the churches in our Association for the past year are $375.46, nearly 41 per cent. more than the contributions of the previous year. While we are glad to report this increase, still your committee are of the opinion that the churches of this Association should do far more than they yet have done for the cause of Home Missions.

GEO. W. THOMAS,
Chairman.

Sang No. 605, in Baptist Hymnal.

The report on Foreign Missions, in absence of Bro. C. A. Gunn, was offered by Rev. H. W. Provence, and spoken to by Revs. A. F. Dix and W. Y. Quisenberry.

On motion, the report was laid on the table for discussion at some other hour of the Association.

On motion, the report on Denominational Education was voted first on programme for discussion this afternoon.

The hour for the missionary sermon having arrived, Rev. Geo. B. Eager, D. D., read the 55th chapter of Isaiah, a portion of the 1st chapter of John, and a part of the 28th chapter of Matthew. Prayer by Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry. Sermon by Dr. Eager; text 1 John 1:5. Prayer by Dr. Urquhart, of the Methodist church.

Sang "The morning light is breaking."

A collection for Missions was taken amounting to $11.80.

On motion of Dr. Eager, the report on Temperance was made the order for 4 p. m. to-day.

On motion, the report on Ministerial Education was put on the calender for 8 o'clock this evening, to be discussed at that hour.

Adjourned with benediction by Rev. M. H. Holt.

AFTERNOON.

Devotional exercises conducted at 3 o'clock by Bro. J. G. Harris, who read a part of the 5th chapter of Matthew. Sang "Rescue the perishing."

The Clerk read the letter from Ramer church which had just been received through the mails.

The report on Denominational Education was read by Bro. Geo. W. Ellis, Chairman, and spoken to by Bro. Ellis and Rev. H. W. Provence, and adopted as follows:

Report on Denominational Education.

In this progressive age, it is useless to argue the necessity for education, for all can realize its importance. Look in every direction and we see evidences of the growing demand for the education of the youth of the land. The man or woman, the boy or girl, who fails to see in the signs of the times this necessity, and fails to prepare to meet it, and thus keep abreast with this progress, will be left in the race of life. The large appropriations by the United States and State governments and municipalities all speak in thunder tones of the importance of the work. To see the appropriations of money from our public treasuries collected from the people, for Universities, Colleges, High Schools and Common Schools, when we as a denomination are doing so little for the support of our own schools, ought to be sufficient to arouse us from our lethargy. It is not the purpose of this committee to say anything detrimental to state education to sustain the claims of denominational education, for each has its sphere of usefulness, but the state schools cannot and never will supplant the denominational schools, in that the Bible is neither taught nor read in the public schools, and to educate the mind to the neglect of the moral and religious character of man, in other words, head culture without heart culture, is a mistake, for man without the proper training of all the faculties of soul, mind and body, is little better than the lower order of animals.

Baptists are more lax in teaching their peculiar doctrines than other denominations. Holding the truth as we believe it is taught in the Bible, we rely entirely too much upon that fact, without impressing those truths upon the minds and hearts of our children. When parents fail to properly teach their children our peculiar doctrines and denominational tenets, we often see such neglect manifested in the after life of such children. We sometimes see this lack of denominational principle in children who have been properly taught at home, but for some reason have been educated elsewhere than at a denominational school. In very few cases where children are properly taught at home and educated at the denominational school do they depart from the faith of their fathers and mothers.

As a means of supplying all the necessary elements for the proper training of the young, we commend our own denominational schools, the Judson Institute for girls and Howard College for boys, both of which are thoroughly equipped for such work, and both having just passed through very successful sessions.

Respectfully submitted by the committee,

GEO. W. ELLIS,
Chairman.

The report on Temperance was read by the Clerk, in the absence of the Chairman, Rev. C. W. Buck, and, on motion, adopted as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It is with heartfelt pleasure that your committee report a continued purpose among the churches of the Association to purify themselves from the sin of intemperance by withdrawing fellowship from all who are engaged in using or selling intoxicating spirits as a beverage. From what we can learn, there is a growing sentiment everywhere among us that no man or woman is worthy the name of Christian, or the rights of church fellowship, who yields to the habit of drinking as a practice, or who uses, sells or invests property or money in the manufacture or traffic of strong drink as a beverage.

A few years back it was considered an evidence of hospitality, in many Christian homes, (as was customary in most outside homes and public places) to set out the decanter and glass before the caller or visitor and invite him to exercise his privilege of unfitting himself as a Christian or gentleman for social or religious associations. We are glad to report that all such has changed in the homes of our church membership.

Under that mistaken regime there was seed sown which eventually nearly overwhelmed and blotted out the fires on many home altars, to the eternal despair of Christian hopes and influences; but, indeed, swept in upon the sanctuary of God in such mighty power that the pulpit and the sacred altars in God's temples were threatened with overthrow. Shadows, dark as death, rested upon the churches. Many strong men in Zion had bowed their heads in weak yielding to the bitter waves of intemperance because they felt unequal to the flood power that had broken upon them.

We see to-day the glimmering of the new dawn upon Zion. She has swept and is still sweeping the foul thing from her doors and sacred places. She will no longer bear the stigma of harboring this foulest agency of sin or its fruits among her children.

Thank God! The church is rejoicing in her freedom from this evil power within her precincts. But the battle is not yet over, nor the victory won. Satan will never yield this fortress until it is beaten to the earth, and he falls with it. There are influences and powers outside of the churches that we are connected with as citizens which he is using with terrible power, and to a great extent we are responsible for their effects, if, as Christian light bearers, we do not strive to check and overcome their advances. We are to mold and establish the sentiment, moral and social, in the community around us.

The saloon, the still and the blind tigers are the mightiest agencies of Satan for the overthrow of truth, purity and faith that broods over the homes of men, and that man or woman who fails to exercise his or her Christian influence to deliver the state and country from their

dire presence is false to the high profession of love for Christ, and false to the welfare of his or her own people and home.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. Buck,
Chairman.

The report on Woman's Work was read by Rev. J. L. Thompson, Chairman, and, on motion, after discussion by Rev. Geo. B. Eager, adopted as follows:

Report on Woman's Work.

Woman's work in its present organized form among us has just passed the first decade. We are not to understand from this that our consecrated women have not been a most potent factor in our religious and church life before this. As we stand at the close of the first decade of the organization of the Woman's Missionary Union—auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention—we are astonished and amazed that this movement, in its incipiency, should have met with such serious opposition by some of our wisest and best brethren. When we consider the fact that the women of our churches constitute the best and most pious element among us, and that they are largely in the majority in all of our churches, it is a matter of surprise that we have not utilized this tremendous force among us many years ago.

The gracious results that have come to our Southern Zion through this movement of the women of the churches fully justifies the wisdom of the undertaking. We present for your thoughtful consideration some facts gathered from the reports of the Woman's Missionary Union, made to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards at Norfolk, Va., last May. During the convention year closing the 30th of April last, the godly women of our Southern Baptist churches have contributed for Foreign Missions $21,633.51, and $35,636.54 for Home Missions, making a total for the year of $57,270.05. During the first decade that has just closed the contributions foot up the handsome sum of $240,778.11. This by no means represents the amount of good accomplished by our devoted women. They have distributed religious literature all over the territory of our Southern Baptist Convention, and in this way circulated missionary information among the people. The systematic way in which the Woman's Missionary Union has arranged monthly topics and prayer cards for the use of our churches and missionary societies has been of untold value in stimulating our people to missionary effort. These facts speak for themselves, and the mentioning of them alone is sufficient to commend the work our Baptist women are doing.

J. L. Thompson,
Chairman.

The report on Apportionment was read by Dr. J. I. Lamar, Chairman, and, on motion, adopted as follows:

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

CHURCHES.	Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Colportage.	Greensboro Church.	Orphanage.	Totals.
Adams Street	$ 300 00	$ 30 00	$ 15 00	$ 15 00	$ 50 00	$ 410 00
Bethany	40 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	55 00
Bethel, Ft. Deposit	85 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	115 00
Bethesda	25 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	40 00
Clayton Street	200 00	30 00	10 00	10 00	30 00	280 00
Coosada	15 00	2 50	2 00	2 00	2 50	24 00
Deatsville	25 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	40 00
First Montgomery	700 00	100 00	50 00	50 00	125 00	1025 00
Friendship	20 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	31 00
Hayneville	25 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	36 00
Letohatchie	10 00	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	20 00
Lowndesboro	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Mt. Hebron	25 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	36 00
Mt. Lebanon	20 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	31 00
Mt. Zion	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Pine Level	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Prattville	85 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	115 00
Ramer	30 00	4 00	2 50	2 50	4 00	43 00
South Montgomery	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	70 00
Wetumpka	85 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	115 00
Totals	$1690 00	$ 246 00	$ 124 00	$ 124 00	$ 291 00	$2675 00

J. I. LAMAR,
J. M. BLACK,
L. S. JONES,
Committee.

On motion, the report on Foreign Missions was taken from the table, discussed by brethren J. E. Bishop and W. Y. Quisenberry, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Foreign Missions is the grandest enterprise that ever enlisted the interest and the activities of men. It is the pulse of our denominational life. Interest in missions is essential to vigorous spiritual growth, and the degree of this interest is a fair index to the spiritual power of the denomination and likewise of the individual church. If this be true, our denominational life is far short of what it ought to be. It is true that last year was the best in the history of our foreign mission work. The Board went up to the Convention free from debt, and had about $3000.00 on hand. The Baptists of the South contributed $124,249.69 to this work during the convention year. We are thankful for this. Some of us have been disposed to congratulate ourselves upon the great work we have done. Yet the Baptists of the South averaged only eight cents per member. Alabama gave $6,563.29, which makes an average of about five cents. Are we doing our duty? How the abundant blessings of God should stimulate us to greater activity. Last year there were 701 baptisms on the foreign field. If He has thus richly blessed the little we have done, what might we expect if we would only do our full duty?

Your committee would urge every pastor in this Association to undertake an earnest and systematic campaign of missionary education. Let our people be informed. The Foreign Mission Journal is the very

best source of information about the Foreign Mission work of the Southern Baptists. It ought by all means to be in every Baptist home within the bounds of the Convention.

Looking back over the history of our work we would call upon all our brethren to thank God and take courage and go forward to yet greater things.

H. W. PROVENCE.

On motion, the Clerk was requested to print in the minutes the names only of the preachers in the bounds of the Association.

On motion, the report on New and Weak Churches, by Rev. W. J. Elliott, Chairman, was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON NEW AND WEAK CHURCHES.

We find, on investigation, that the year just closed has been marked by intensive rather than extensive development.

No new churches have been constituted during the year. The Letohatchie church has been received into our fellowship at this session. We have been trying to "strengthen the things that remain," rather than organize new churches with no hope of their becoming self-sustaining. The chairman of your committee visited and communicated with different points and needy places, and offered to help them in any way he could.

While the reports from different parts of the Association are not what we could hope or even expect, yet they give evidence of life and health and activity.

All the churches and mission stations in our territory, with perhaps one exception, are supplied with pastors.

Taking the reports as a whole and looking at the tangible evidence furnished, it may be truly said that the work in the bounds of our Association is on a good foundation and promises great things for the future.

Respectfully submitted.

W. J. ELLIOTT,
Chairman.

Bro. W. E. Lacy, Chairman, made the following report on Indigent Ministers, which, on motion, was adopted:

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

To the Montgomery Baptist Association:

Your committee feels assured that there is no necessity for making any argument to prove that it is a sacred duty to care for that class of our ministry who have fallen into indigent circumstances. These faithful servants have every right to expect the sympathy and help of God's people. After years of hard service, during which they have had scant opportunity to lay by anything for old age, these old preachers have passed beyond the period of activity and are often subjected to hardships.

We are glad to be informed that within our bounds we have no indigent ministers. There are, however, in the State a number of them—some absolutely dependent ones. That we should help them is a privilege as well as a duty. Funds for this cause may be sent to the State Secretary, at 18 South Perry St., Montgomery, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. LACY,
Chairman.

Sang "How firm a foundation."

Words of caution were spoken by Revs. Geo. B. Eager and W. Y. Quisenberry to churches within our bounds concerning the too eager opening of the doors of our churches to ministers who are not properly endorsed or who are not known to us.

Dismissed till 8 p. m., with benediction by Rev. A. F. Dix.

EVENING SESSION.

Devotional exercises conducted at 7:45 by Bro. G. W. McRea, who read the 32d chapter of Genesis. Song.

The association resumed business at 8 o'clock.

The Moderator announced the Executive Committee, and committees to report at next session of the Association (see front page of cover).

The report on Ministerial Education was presented by Bro. J. G. Harris, Chairman, and spoken to by Bro. Harris and Rev. J. L. Thompson, and adopted, as follows:

Report on Ministerial Education.

To argue before an intelligent religious body, at this day, the necessity of proper training of our young ministers in literary and theological schools in order to a successful prosecution of their high calling, would seem out of place and unnecessary; and yet there are some among us who are not in full sympathy with such work. It will be admitted that our boys and girls must be taught and trained in the schools, to keep as nearly as possible abreast of the times. None deny this; but when it comes to educating our young preachers in order to equip them the better to fulfill their mission, some will say, this is men-making preachers. Such is not the fact. Our denomination puts the call to the ministry first, and the education by the denomination afterwards. Called and then qualified.

An educated ministry is the demand of the times. We live in an age of learning and progress. It must be admitted that just in proportion as science aids in agriculture, our farmers must know that science in order to keep in touch with the successful man. In all vocations this rule will apply. Whatever lends aid in progress should be utilized. As the world grows wiser our leaders, whether in secular or social things, should grow wiser. An ignorant, untrained mind cannot intelligently present any question to his hearers that requires analytical investigation and deep study. That old idea, open your mouth and God will put words in it, whether you know the meaning of the words or not, is exploded. He has given us brain power and demands that we cultivate it. He gives us the material and we must exercise and utilize it, for His glory and our good.

Men who lead in our churches as pastors ought to be wise men, men of learning, business men; or, in other words, should know the rules of business. To know the Scriptures and how to apply them, to know our doctrines and how to explain them, stand first in the educated preacher. But this is not all. He should be a wise counsellor, a prudent adviser, and these things enter into his education. He comes face to face with many knotty problems presented by his

members; he therefore must be a wise man. If all these things are true, then the preacher ought to be, educationally, the best equipped man in the church. He ought to be a leader in all good work. We do not care where his training is had, so it is proper training. He may be self-taught, he may be taught in the humble school, but taught he ought to be, taught he must be, or he will be left in the race. Hence, as Baptists, we are becoming more and more strong advocates of an educated ministry.

There is no place in all the land better equipped to send forth into the Master's vineyard thoroughly prepared preachers than our Theological Seminary at Louisville. From this splendid institution year after year young men go out to fill our pulpits, and at this day they can be found all over the world. No institution has ever done more good, according to time, than this. Hence we should stand by it, defend it, support it, maintain it. It is the strength and power of our Southern pulpit, and we are proud of it. The last session enrolled more students than ever before. It is immortal and will push on in its successful career, until the nations of the earth will feel its power and influence.

But the Seminary is not the only institution of learning in which we are interested. Our own Howard College, which has done so much for education in Alabama, challenges our strongest support. Here many a young man who to-day is a strong force in his calling, whether it be secular or sacred, received his training. Here our Baptist people have looked, and not in vain, for great results. We verily believe that no school, college or university in this State has done as effective and lasting work as Howard College. It is worthy the support of our denomination, and our people should patronize it. It has a Bible department where the Bible is taught and lectures given. Let us stand by Howard College, send our boys there, and aid all we can in freeing it from debt.

"Institute work," endorsed by the Baptist State Convention at its last annual session, is another agency in ministerial training. This work is in the hands of a board of seven brethren, who, at their first meeting, elected Rev. Geo. S. Anderson, of Auburn, Secretary and Conductor of Institute Work. Your committee have no data concerning the work being done. One thing, however, we hear many preachers who have attended these institutes conducted by Bro. Anderson speak in the highest terms of the good being accomplished. This is evidence of the fact that the Convention did a wise thing in organizing such a work.

JNO. G. HARRIS,
Chairman.

The report on Sunday Schools was read by Dr. J. I. Lamar, Chairman, and spoken to by Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry, Bro. G. G. Miles, Rev. Geo. B. Eager, and Bro. J. B. Collier, and adopted:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

It is gratifying to your committee to report that the interest in Sunday school work is increasing; the field of labor enlarging not only in the bounds of our own Association, but throughout the entire State. A number of Associations are holding Sunday school Conventions, which will be productive of good. The "Home Department" has been added, enabling Sunday schools not only in the cities, but in the country as well, to engage in the work. Missionary work can be

done along that line, destitute sections in the rural districts visited, and by proper encouragement and aid schools and churches established.

We are proud to know that our denomination is in the lead in this as in other great enterprises for the spread of the gospel, and the day has dawned when the names of other Baptists will be on record with those who have been instrumental in teaching the young the way of the Lord, as has obtained in the International Series of Lessons now adopted by the world. The name of Jacobs was the first to advance the idea and secure the meeting of the first International Convention, adopting them in the year 1873. The first and greatest Bible Society of the world was originated by Thomas Hughes, a Baptist preacher, now known as the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The Infant Department of the Sunday school had its origin in the effort of Miss Ball, a Baptist, in instructing little children somewhat on the Kindergarten system. A brother Howland, with the assistance of Miss Ball, introduced it into the Sunday school, and thus created the Infant Department as early as the year 1829.

The first Sunday school west of the Mississippi river was established by two Baptists, Peck and an associate. In the great far West, where the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, now stands, a Baptist lady, Miss Bishop, started the first Sunday school in all that region.

Returning to our own section of country, we find it on record that Mr. John Gindrat, a Baptist, was one of the Christians who founded the "Sunday School Society" of Montgomery, in March, 1824, when there was not an organized church of any denomination in the town, and was selected as the first superintendent. He afterwards became a member of the First Baptist church, and the first Sunday school organization of the church dates back to February, 1834.

Starting with Robert Raikes and William Fox, Baptists of England, in the year 1781 down to 1804, when a Sunday school was established in Baltimore by Baptists, and 1803 in Philadelphia, which have a constant record to the present time, it clearly shows that the Sunday school is no new work with Baptists.

Our publication societies are among the finest agencies in the world for furnishing helps in the study of the Bible, and have been instrumental in planting more Sunday schools than any other agencies in America, issuing their periodicals weekly and annually by the millions. Six chapel cars also travel all lines of railroad, besides the missionaries for the work travelling in the same territories, pushing forward the glorious work in the destitute places. We would call especial notice to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Nashville, Tenn., Rev. J. M. Frost, Corresponding Secretary, which supplies most of the Sunday school literature in our Southern country, and aiding so much in circulating Bibles and Testaments in destitute places. To every dollar that is given the Board adds another dollar, making every gift do double service.

The Association Sunday School Convention appointed last session of this body was held with the Prattville church in April, and much enjoyed by those who attended. Another will be held sometime during the next year; time and place to be selected by the Executive Board. All the churches comprising this Association, except one or two have Sunday schools connected with them, which speaks well for the cause in our bounds. In view of the favorable surroundings

let us press forward with renewed energy, trusting to the Master for greater success.

Respectfully submitted,

J. I. LAMAR,
Chairman.

Sang the doxology and dismissed by Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry.

FRIDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Devotional exercises conducted at 9 o'clock by Bro. R. H. Hudson.

Business resumed at 9:30.

Minutes of Thursday's proceedings were read and approved.

The report on Nominations was read by the Chairman, Bro. J. B. Collier, as follows, and, on motion, adopted:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your committee recommend that the next meeting of this Association be held with Mt. Hebron Baptist church, and that the time of meeting be left with the Executive Committee; that Rev. W. J. Elliott preach the introductory sermon, and Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry preach the missionary sermon.

Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention—Dr. H. W. Provence; alternate, Rev. T. J. Porter.

Delegates to the State Convention—G. G. Miles, J. C. Pope, Rev. W. J. Elliott, Dr. P. N. Cilley, Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry, C. C. Edwards, Frank Allen, I. N. Jordan, Dr. J. I. Lamar, Rev. C. Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. COLLIER,
R. H. HUDSON,
J. E. BISHOP,
Committee.

The report of the Committee on Finance was made by Bro. W. E. Lacy, Chairman, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report the following amounts in cash collected and disbursed at this session, 1898.

DR.

To State Missions	$ 31 96		
Home Missions	19 60		
Foreign Missions	19 55		
Collected at Association, Missions	11 80		
Associational Purposes	5 90		
Minutes, etc	32 00	— $	120 81

CR.

By State Missions	31 96		
Home Missions	19 60		
Foreign Missions	19 55		
Collected at Association, Missions	11 80		
Associational Purposes	5 90		
Minutes, Clerk, etc	32 00	—	120 81

We have examined the following report of J. C. Pope, Treasurer, for 1897, and find same correct:

J. C. POPE, Treasurer, in account with
Montgomery Baptist Association, Aug. 3, 1898.

1897 DR.

July 30—To cash, minutes	$38 55		
" collected for Orphanage	10 50		
" from churches for Missions	51 30—	$ 100	35

CR.

July 30—By cash, minutes, clerk, postage, etc	38 55		
" Orphanage	10 50		
" Missions	51 30—	100	35

ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES.

Balance on hand last report	$12 63		
From Bethany church	11 00—	$23	63

CR.

By programs	1 25		
By Associational letters and postage	60—	1	85
Balance on hand		$21	78

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. LACY,
FRANK ALLEN,
WM. R. MEADOWS,
Com. on Finance.

ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES, 1898.

DR.

Balance on hand, above report	$21 78		
Collected at this Association	5 90—	$27	68

CR.

To sup. minute fund	5 00		
" " " S. S. Convention	3 47		
" " Clerk's fee, etc	5 00—	13	47
Balance on hand		$14	21

In the absence of Bro. C. L. Gay, Chairman, the report on the Orphan's Home was supplied by Rev. J. W. Stewart, of Evergreen, the Financial Secretary. Report spoken to by Revs. W. M. Murray, J. W. Stewart, A. F. Dix, Bros. G. G. Miles, J. E. Bishop, Revs. Geo. B. Eager and J. L. Thompson, and, on motion, adopted:

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

The Louise Short Baptist Widows and Orphans' Home is a source of gratification to all philanthropic Baptists in Alabama. Since it was opened, five years ago, there have been gathered into it forty-one boys and forty-nine girls. Out of it have gone by apprenticeship two boys, returned to their people seven boys, seven girls; by adoption eleven boys, eleven girls. Two boys have been irregularly discharged. One boy has died. Leaving in the home eighteen boys, thirty-one girls.

Important improvements have been added to the Home by which

we have twice as much room as formerly, and all the former house thoroughly renovated and improved. Adequate water works and a complete system of sanitation.

There is a balance of about $400.00 to be paid on these improvements, and about as much on current expense account. Will our friends help pay this amount by October 1st, so that the Home can be dedicated October 20th free of debt?

The following resolution of thanks was offered by Rev. J. L. Thompson, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered the pastor and members of the Lowndesboro church, and the good citizens of the community, for their most cordial and gracious hospitality during the session of the Association.

The report of the Committee on B. Y. P. U. work was read by Bro. E. L. Davant, Chairman. Report spoken to by Bros. Davant, J. G. Harris, Geo. Mahler, Revs. H. W. Provence, W. Y. Quisenberry, W. M. Murray, and adopted, as follows:

Report on Baptist Young People's Union.

Your Committee on Young People's Work submits the following: In the report last year the committee on this branch of our work gave a synopsis of the organization, history and objects of the Baptist Young People's Union and other Young People's Societies which do a like work. We come this year to report the accomplishment of these objects, to some extent at least. Our State Convention recently held in Montgomery showed an interest in Young People's work never before demonstrated. It showed that a host of the Baptist young people of Alabama are working together for the same cause; that they are laying hold of the precious promises of God as laid down in the Scriptures and keeping in touch with the Master, relying on His strength and guidance and endeavoring to lead spiritual lives; that they are studying the Word of God systematically and practically; that they are becoming more and more interested in mission work, and in many instances are aiding financially the promotion of missions through their respective churches and the Boards.

The Young People's Societies are training up young men and women for the Master's work who will be equipped for real practical service. A number of them are doing special home mission work, such as educating poor children, visiting the sick among the poorer and laboring classes, organizing prayer meetings, Sunday schools, etc.

The work that the Young People's Union does in the way of giving work to new converts is very helpful to the church and the cause; more especially is this true in the cities.

The following churches of this district have Young People's Unions or Societies doing a similar work: First church, Montgomery, 50; Adams Street church, Montgomery, 105; Clayton Street church, Montgomery, 40; South Montgomery, Montgomery, 50; Lowndesboro about 25; Coosada 15; Wetumpka 25; Prattville about 15.

E. L. Davant,
for committee.

On motion of Bro. Elliott, 500 copies of the minutes were ordered printed.

On motion of Bro. Thompson, $5.00 of the associational fund was

added to the minute fund and $5.00 to fee of Clerk, the balance to be left in hands of Executive Committee.

On motion, permission was granted to print a few pages of the Sunday School Conventions (at Fort Deposit and Prattville) in the minutes of this Association.

Closing remarks by the Moderator.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry. Text: "He brought him to Jesus."

Prayer by Rev. J. W. Stewart.

Sang "Blest be the tie that binds," and adjourned to meet next year with Mt. Hebron church, near Elmore Station ; time to be announced by the Executive Committee.

G. G. MILES,
Moderator.

J. C. POPE,
Clerk and Treasurer.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1898.

CHURCHES.	State Missions	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Orphanage.	Ministerial Educat'n	Minutes.	Associat'al Purposes	Howard College.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Missions.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Orphanage.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Home Expenses.	WOMAN'S SOCIET'S Foreign Missions	WOMAN'S SOCIET'S Orphanage.	WOMAN'S SOCIET'S Church and other Purposes.	B. Y. P. U. General Purposes	B. Y. P. U. Missions.	Ladies' Miss. Soc. for Ministerial Educat'n	Pastor's Salary.	Poor, Repairs, Fuel, Etc.	Sunbeams for Mis'ns	Judson Institute.	Value of Church Property.
Adams Street	$ 45 00	$ 45 00	$145 00	$ 60 12	$ ____	$ 3 50	$ ____	$ ____	$ 21 51	$ ____	$ 80 31	$ 5 00	$ ____	$ ____	$10 92	$ ____	$ ____	$1200 00	$ 371 00	____	$ ____	$15,000 00
Bethesda	3 50	____	____	____	____	1 50	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	700 00
Bethel	37 06	12 00	12 00	31 35	____	2 00	____	____	1 00	3 00	42 20	10 00	10 00	66 40	____	____	____	____	493 76	____	____	6,000 00
Bethany	5 30	____	____	____	____	1 00	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____
Coosada	____	5 15	1 95	____	____	25	____	____	80	____	9 76	____	____	____	____	____	____	84 08	11 42	____	____	800 00
Clayton Street	72 12	46 36	86 47	29 00	23 71	3 00	____	10 00	48 07	____	51 35	24 13	24 00	____	____	1 00	4 40	1054 10	488 42	____	____	5,000 00
Deatsville	4 61	____	6 25	5 46	5 14	2 00	____	____	1 00	1 39	____	____	2 10	20 00	____	____	____	150 00	5 25	____	____	800 00
First Montgomery	225 57	101 30	262 00	15 50	____	5 00	____	____	100 56	137 68	149 83	130 93	____	167 45	45 00	15 00	____	1600 00	1088 59	____	25 00	35,000 00
Friendship	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____
Hayneville	7 45	____	____	14 60	____	1 00	____	____	____	____	8 75	____	____	____	____	____	____	200 00	15 00	____	____	1,200 00
Lowndesboro	13 76	16 25	4 25	11 75	____	3 00	____	____	____	____	12 19	____	____	20 00	____	____	____	250 00	42 00	2 02	____	2,500 00
Letohatchie	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	1,000 00
Mt. Hebron	____	2 53	____	____	____	1 50	5 15	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	750 00
Mt. Lebanon	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____
Mt. Zion	19 86	____	____	5 10	____	1 25	75	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	250 00	____	____	____	1,000 00
Pine Level	4 50	____	____	____	____	1 00	____	____	____	____	8 00	____	____	____	____	____	____	64 25	____	____	____	1,000 00
Prattville	23 81	23 50	23 92	____	____	2 00	____	____	25 00	37 05	____	39 00	____	3 00	____	____	5 00	____	____	____	____	2,000 00
Ramer	4 04	____	____	____	____	1 00	____	____	____	____	4 00	____	____	____	____	____	____	20 14	____	____	____	500 00
South Montgomery	15 00	____	____	____	2 50	1 50	____	____	____	____	71 81	3 00	14 50	250 00	40 00	____	____	590 06	594 97	____	____	2,000 00
Wetumpka	14 51	____	6 92	10 35	____	1 50	____	____	5 80	____	55 91	____	5 00	47 35	____	____	____	400 00	28 65	____	____	8,000 00
Totals	$496 09	$252 09	$548 96	$183 23	$31 40	$32 00	$5 90	$10 00	$203 74	$179 12	$494 11	$212 06	$55 60	$574 20	$95 92	$16 00	$9 40	$5862 63	$3139 06	$2 02	$25 00	____

Colportage, Deatsville church, $2.00; Deatsville church for Ministerial Institute, $1.07. First church, Montgomery, for Woman's Home, $8.93; missionary box, $122.00 Lowndesboro Woman's Society, for Miss Kelly, $10.00; Sunbeams for Orphanage, $1.03. Prattville church for Institute Board, $5.66. Sunbeams for Orphanage, $6.00. Ladies' Missionary Society, box, $36.40.

Respectfully submitted, W. E. Lacy, Frank Allen, W. R. Meadows, Committee.

STATISTICS OF MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1898.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK AND POST-OFFICE.	Membership 1897.	INCR'SE By Baptism.	INCR'SE By Letter.	INCR'SE By Restoration.	DECREASE By Letter.	DECREASE By Exclusion.	DECREASE Incorrectly report'd & erasure	DECREASE By Death.	Membership 1898.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Officers & Teach's	Pupils.	Aver'ge attend'ce	Bapt'z'd from S.S.	Vols. in Library.	Periodicals taken	S. S. SUPERINTEND'T AND P. O. ADDRESS.	No. Sub. to Den. Paper	Ordained Ministers.	Preaching Sabbaths.
Adams Street	Montgom'y	W. Y. Qnisenberry	J. C. Pope, Montgomery	524	34	30	3	47	3	27	4	510	14	153	115	16	200	160	B. A. Blakey, Montgom'y	15	3	Every
Bethany	Elmore	C. J. Bentley	J. S. Turner, Ware	82								82	5	25	20				W. P. Dawson, Ware	7		
Bethel (Ft. Deposit)	Lowndes	T. J. Porter	T. J. Hairston, Ft. Deposit	378	4	4	1	23		99	1	264	10	168	85				C. H. Priester, Ft. Deposit	20	2	4th.
Bethesda	Montgom'y	W. C. Avant	J. T. Boyd, Ada	39				1			1	37										
†Clayton Street	"	J. L. Thompson	W. T. New, Montgom'ry	275	5	18		13	1		4	280	22	155	92	5	73	150	Frank Allen, Montg'y	12	1	Every
Coosada	Elmore	W. J. Elliott	D. J. Moore, Coosada	39	6	1		1				45	7	24	23				R. H. Hudson, Milbrook			3d
Deatsville	"	Geo. E. Brewer	J. I. Lamar, Deatsville	65	2	2	1	3	1		1	65	8	45		1			J. I. Lamar, Deatsville	5	1	2d
First Montgomery	Montgom'y	Geo. B. Eager	Maxie Pepperman, Montg'y	734	25	45		19	6		13	628	41	341	200	18	800	300	M. Cody, Jr., Montgom'y		5	Every
*Friendship	"	J. J. Nelson	F. M. Sullivant, Ralf	56								56									1	
Hayneville	Lowndes	I. N. Langston	J. T. Varner, Hayneville	42	4	15						61	7	16	32	3			H. C. Burdeshaw, Hayneville			4th
Letohatchie	"	"	J. W. Powell, Letohatchie	26		2		1			1	26	8	40	25				J. W. Dicks'n, Let'hatchie			3d
Lowndesdoro	"	W. J. Elliott	Frank Gordon, Lowndesboro	25	3	2						30	7	36	32	3		40	P. N. Cilley, Lowndesboro	7		1st
Mt. Hebron	Elmore	L. H. Hastie	John Hogan, Spigener's	98				5				93	6	25	20				W. H. Kendrick, Elmore			4th
*Mt. Lebanon	Montgom'y	B. A. Jackson	W. F. Niblett, Woodley	42		2				1	1	42										3d
Mt. Zion	"	N. C. Und'rwood	J. G. Mills, Chambers	26		4					1	29								8		4th
Pine Level	"	C. Johnson	J. H. Lee, Pine Level	92	4			8		1	1	86	8	45	35	1			A. H. Eubanks, Pine Lev'l			4th
Prattville	Autauga	A. T. Sims	R. M. Anderson, Pratt v'le	136	13	22	2	6			4	163	19	170	120	9			R. M. Anderson, Pratt v'le			2d
Ramer	Montgom'y	J. J. Nelson	J. J. McLendon, Ramer	43	4			2				45	7	40	25	1		10	B. A. Jackson, Ramer	6	1	2d
South Montgom'y	"	H. W. Provence	W. J. Burch, Montgom'y	102	7	22		8	6			117	10	108	66		225	125	J. B. Collier, Montgom'y		2	Every
Wetumpka	Elmore	W. J. Elliott	C. C. Edwards, Wetum'ka	107	1	5		6			1	106	9	100	60				C. C. Edwards, Wetum'ka			2d & 4th
Total				2931	112	174	7	143	20	127	36	2765	188	1521		57	1298			80	16	

†WEST END MISSION—Total contributions $216.50; preaching second and fourth Sunday afternoons. Average S. S. attendance 35. Rev. H. W. Provence, Pastor. R. Cargill, Clerk and Secretary S. S. Superintendent S. S., H. C. Smith.

*Not represented.

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

Sunday School Convention of the Montgomery Baptist Association.

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1897.

A mass meeting composed of Sunday School workers and members of the various churches within the bounds of the Montgomery Baptist Association was held with the Fort Deposit church at 8 o'clock p. m., April 9, 1897, Rev. Wm. D. Gay, pastor of the Adams Street church, conducting the service.

SATURDAY, April 10, 1897.

MORNING.

Delegates from the following Baptist churches and Sunday Schools in the Association met this day at 9:30 o'clock to organize and hold the first Sunday School Convention of the Montgomery Baptist Association:

Adams Street—Revs. W. D. Gay and C. W. Phillips, J. C. Pope, Misses Ruth Bachelor, Mattie Robertson, Eula Atkinson, Mrs. J. R. Wing, Mrs. T. J. Mattox.
Bethel (Ft. Deposit)—Rev. H. W. Beville, Vinson Bell, T. J. Threadgill, M. W. Bishop.
Coosada—R. H. Hudson.
First Montgomery—G. G. Miles, J. G. Harris, Jos. Norwood.
Hayneville—Mrs. Estelle Garrett.
Letohatchie—John Frymire, Miss Mary Farrior.
Lowndesboro—Douglass Allen.
Ramer—J. R. McLendon, Miss C. McLendon,
South Montgomery—Revs. J. F. Gable and C. Johnson, Miss Æolian Spear.
Wetumpka—Revs. W. J. Elliott and A. F. Goldsmith, W. E. Lacy.

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. J. G. Harris. Prayer by Rev. C. Johnson. Song.

On motion of Bro. J. C. Pope, a committee composed of the following brethren was appointed to nominate officers for the convention: Rev. W. J. Elliott, R. H. Hudson, J. R. McLendon.

The committee to nominate officers reported: G. G. Miles, President; J. C. Pope, Secretary; Jos. Norwood, Treasurer. The report was adopted. Bro. J. R. McLendon was elected as Vice-President.

The programme was adopted.

Rev. H. W. Beville extended the hospitality of the church, the town and all the homes to the delegates and visitors. Bro. J. F. Gable responded for the convention.

The subject, "How can this convention aid in developing the work of the Montgomery Association?" was discussed by Maj. J. G. Harris. The speaker said: It helps the pastor, it helps the church, it helps the people. A working Sunday School will make a working church.

Rev. C. W. Phillips said: God will hold us responsible for the tutoring of the youth in the Sunday School. Paul's words to the jailor, "Do thyself no harm," should be the uppermost thought in their minds.

On motion, the officers of the convention were instructed to supply speakers in place of absentees.

AFTERNOON.

Devotional services conducted by Bro. R. H. Hudson.

Remarks by Dr. Beville: The spirit of missions is the spirit of Christianity. The best way to help the Montgomery Association is to get every child to become enlisted in mission work.

The following resolution by Maj. J. G. Harris was adopted:

Resolved, That the president, vice-president and secretary be and the same are hereby constituted an executive committee, with plenary powers to do and perform all acts they may in their judgment think best, to promote the aims and purposes of this organization, and especially to organize a Sunday School in each church within this Association; provided, it is the desire of the members of such church; and to accomplish this end, appoint brethren to hold meetings and perfect the organization.

Resolved further, That the executive committee be requested to carry out the various suggestions that may be made by this Convention, to the end that the Sunday School interest be revived within our bounds.

Dr. W. C. Bledsoe discussed the subject, "Does the denominational interest in the state call for a State Sunday School Convention?" After considering the subject in all its parts, he was of the opinion that the Baptists ought to have a State Sunday School Convention. The subject was further spoken to by brethren Elliott, Gay, Beville.

The subject, "Plans for winning helpers to a good work," was discussed by Prof. Douglass Allen.

Rev. J. F. Gable discussed the question, "Where is the pastor's place in the Sunday School?" He said: The pastor must set the example. He must lead in all church work. The Sunday School work must be made a primary part of his work. Remarks by brethren Gay, Beville, Bledsoe and Goldsmith.

On motion of Bro. Gay, the executive committee was instructed to take under consideration the advisability of the calling of a State Sunday School Convention, to meet with the Adams Street Baptist church next July, when the Association meets.

On motion, a collection of $3.47 was raised for printing a few pages of the minutes. Adjourned.

EVENING.

7:30. Devotional services conducted by Prof. T. J. Threadgill. Song.

Received the following telegram from the State Sunday School Convention in session at Tuskaloosa:

TUSKALOOSA, Ala., April 10, 1897.

To Baptist Sunday School Convention, Ft. Deposit, Ala.:

Four hundred delegates assembled in State Sunday School Convention, representing the evangelical denominations, send cordial greeting to the Baptist Sunday School workers at Fort Deposit in convention assembled. Read 3 John 2-3.

T. W. PALMER.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to the telegram.

Rev. C. Johnson opened the discussion of the subject, "Should our denominational tenets be made prominent in our teaching?" Belief, baptism, communion, all should be made prominent. We must teach these doctrines in order to maintain the harmony of the Bible. Remarks by brethren Beville, Elliott, Bledsoe, Miles, McLendon.

The subject "What can we do to add interest to the remaining exercises of the Convention?" was discussed by brethren Beville, Johnson, McLendon, Elliott, Bledsoe.

Adjourned, benediction by Dr. Bledsoe.

SUNDAY, April 11, 1897.

MORNING.

Sunday school mass meeting at 9 o'clock.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, from John 20:21, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

AFTERNOON.

Preaching at 2 o'clock by Rev. W. J. Elliott. Text, Rev. 21:21.

"Difficulties in the way of Sunday School attendance, and how to remove them," was discussed by Rev. E. F. Baber. The want of an inclination is often a serious difficulty. It takes executive and administrative ability. Remarks by brethren Bledsoe and Beville.

On motion of Rev. C. Johnson, the executive committee was instructed to report time and place of next meeting, when the Association meets with the Adams Street church.

On motion, the following resolution of thanks was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are hereby tendered to Ft. Depost church and community for the generous hospitality extended us while in their midst.

Adjourned with the singing of "God be with you till we meet again," and giving the parting hand.

J. C. POPE,
Secretary.

G. G. MILES,
President.

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

Sunday School Convention of the Montgomery Baptist Association.

PRATTVILLE, ALA., April 16, 1898.

The Sunday School Convention of the Montgomery Baptist Association met in its second annual session with the church at Prattville, Ala., Saturday, April 16, 1898.

Sang "All hail the power of Jesus name." Prayer by Rev. G. S. Anderson. Devotional exercises conducted by Bro. R. H. Hudson. Prayer by Rev. E. F. Baber.

The President appointed the following committee on Nominations: J. I. Lamar, W. J. Elliott, R. M. Anderson.

The committee on Nominations reported as follows:

Adams Street—Rev. E. F. Baber, B. A. Blakey, T. J. Scott, Jr., Hal Harrison, J. C. Pope, Mrs. B. A. Blakey, Mrs. Annie Porter, Mrs. J. R. Powell.

Bethel (Fort Deposit)—Rev. J. T. Porter, C. A. Gunn.

Coosada—R. H. Hudson, D. J. Moore, Misses Georgia Pierce, L. Suttle, Ada Powell and Ivie.

First Montgomery—G. G. Miles, W. B. Davidson, E. L. Davant, M. Cody, Jr., Miss Rosalie Baber.

Mt. Hebron—H. E. James, Willie Barefield.

Prattville—R. M. Anderson, J. B. Bell, J. W. Matthews, G. W. Walls, Will Anderson, Eldo Edwards, J. H. Narramore, Mesdames S. A. Smith, Henry, Mary Narramore, Will Anderson, Ed Gresham, Misses Mary Ward, Ella Hinton, Georgie Smith.

South Montgomery—J. J. Barnett, Miss Mamie Collier.

Wetumpka—Rev. W. J. Elliott.

The committee on Nominations further reported, as follows: For President, G. G. Miles; Vice-President, J. I. Lamar; Secretary, J. C. Pope; Treasurer, R. H. Hudson. The Executive Committee to be composed of the officers of the Convention, with brethren J. B. Bell and Cabot Lull added. Adopted.

Remarks by the President. Programme adopted.

Discussion of subject, "Lesson helps, their use and abuse," by Rev. E. F. Baber, who read the 8th chapter of Nehemiah. Subject continued. Welcomed Rev. G. S. Anderson to a seat in the convention.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON.

Convention met at 2 o'clock. Devotional exercises conducted by Dr. J. I. Lamar. Sang hymn 499.

Resumed discussion of morning subject, "Lesson Helps," etc.

Rev. W. J. Elliott was in favor of using all the lesson helps we can get, but he does not want to leave out the Bible in the school. "I be-

lieve if we want to make good Bible students, we ought to study the Bible. Paul exhorted Timothy to study the Word of God."

In absence of Miss Agnes Barclay, who was to give some thoughts on "Primary Teaching," Bro. W. B. Davidson was asked to speak on same. He said: I am glad to know that we are teaching the children at an early age. In the child life the image of Christ may appear. Children are fond of pictures. Let us impress them with Bible pictures.

Bro. Baber: Teach children in school as we teach them in the home—teach them with blocks, etc.; the same way we ought to convey the truth to the child in the Sunday School.

Sister Smith: I think memorizing the Bible is the most important. The young mind will take hold of and retain the Scriptures in early life.

Bro. Miles: I believe that object lessons are very important. Early impressions are the most lasting.

Rev. G. S. Anderson: I believe in the memorizing of the Bible; teach the truth in its unity. We must have clear outlines of the truth—the truth in the unity and the truth in the concrete.

At 3:30 discussed the subject, "What are the requisites of a good Sunday School?"

Dr. Lamar: It is very important that the teachers have their hearts in the work.

Bro. Hudson: Preparation is the best requisite. We should be interested, heart and soul.

Bro. Davidson: There must be a transfer of knowledge from the mind and heart of the teacher to the pupil. We ought to pray for and expect conversions.

Sang hymn 416.

"The Home Department" was discussed by the following brethren:

Bro. Miles: This is a work for the home and in the home. Those who cannot go to church have opportunity to study and work at home.

Bro. G. S. Anderson: We need this home department in the country churches. If we would possess the land, we ought to take hold of this work.

Rev. A. T. Sims: Domestic evangelism—home work—is very essential in the country. Invite the non-church goers, the uninterested, the indifferent.

Bro. Boley: Don't forget the country churches. He knows of a Sunday School that was established in one of the dark corners, where the people usually spent the Sundays in hunting and fishing. A Sunday School was organized; his family were the only ones who could read; seven preachers have gone out from that Sunday School and church.

Adjourned till 7:30 p. m.

Evening.

Devotional exercises conducted by Bro. E. L. Davant.

Sang "Work for the night is coming."

Question box conducted by Bro. J. C. Pope, with brethren Davidson, Miles, Sims, Lamar, Gunn and Porter answering the queries.

The subject, "The teacher's responsibility and the possibilities of his work," was discussed by brethren Anderson and Baber.

Bro. Anderson: There is a great and sacred duty resting upon the teacher. We must know the truth. It is when the truth is clarified and simplified that it becomes effective and powerful.

Bro. Baber: The pupils have receptive minds. It needs the best teaching in the school to teach the infant class.

On motion, a few pages of the minutes were ordered printed. Collected $3.57 for that purpose.

Benediction by Rev. J. T. Porter.

SUNDAY.

Morning.

Devotional exercises at 9 o'clock by Bro. C. A. Gunn. Prayer by Bro. Sims.

Bro. Davidson conducted the Sunday School. Remarks by Rev. J. T. Porter.

Sermon at 11 a. m. by Rev. G. S. Anderson.

Afternoon.

Devotional exercises conducted at two o'clock by Bro. Bolling Blakey. Closing remarks.

On motion of Bro. Davidson, the next session of the Convention was left with the Executive Committee.

On motion of Bro. Pope, a resolution of thanks to the church and people of Prattville for their kindness and hospitality was unanimously passed.

Adjourned at 4 p. m. with a song and giving the parting hand.

J. C. Pope, Secretary.

G. G. Miles, President.